

APR 24 2007

Docket No. 740756-2709  
Application No. 10/769,820  
Page 8REMARKS

The above amendment with the following remarks is submitted to be fully responsive to the Office Action of January 24, 2007. Reconsideration of this application in light of the amendment and the allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. In response to the Office Action, claims 1-6 are amended to clarify the invention and claims 31-36 are added. Support for the newly-added claims can be seen in the specification at page 14, line 24 to page 15, line 5. No new matter is added by these new claims. Therefore, claims 1-15 and 31-36 are now pending in the present application and are believed to be in proper condition for allowance.

Claims Rejections under U.S. 35 § 102

Referring now to the Office Action, claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,724,222 to Feldman. This rejection is respectfully traversed, as Feldman does not describe each and every feature set forth in the pending claims.

Amended claims 1-3 recite the feature "the surface has a side length on the order of 1 m". Support for the amendment can be seen in the specification, for example, at page 22, lines 5-8 and FIG. 1.

Feldman teaches that "[f]or purposes of a specific illustrative example, the particular chuck represented in FIG. 1 will be assumed to be designed to hold a wafer 20 approximately 15 centimeters (cm) in diameter. For this particular case, the dimensions a and b of the specific illustrative base portion 12 of the depicted chuck are approximately 17 cm and 1 cm, respectively" in column 2, lines 40-46. As shown in these lines, the surface has a side length not on the order of 1 m but on the order of several tens cm in Feldman

Feldman does not describe a laser irradiation stage having a surface with a side length on the order of 1m, as is recited in amended claims 1-3. Applicants respectfully submit that Feldman does not anticipate claims 1-3. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request this rejection be withdrawn.

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Claims Rejections under U.S. 35 § 103

Claims 1-15 are rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,907,770 to Yamazaki et al. and in view of Feldman. . This rejection is respectfully traversed, as AAPA, Yamazaki et al., and Feldman do not describe each and every feature set forth in the pending claims.

Amended claims 4-6 recite the feature "the surface has a side length on the order of 1 m". As above, support for the amendment can be seen in the specification, for example, at page 22, lines 5-8 and FIG. 1.

Feldman fails to teach the feature as stated above. Further, AAPA also does not teach the feature. Upon reviewing Yamazaki et al., a stage having a convex U-shaped curved surface may be disclosed, however, the feature of "the surface has a side length on the order of 1 m" seems to be not disclosed. Applicant respectfully submits that AAPA, Yamazaki et al. and Feldman do not teach or suggest the feature.

Because neither AAPA, Yamazaki et al., nor Feldman teaches or describe a laser irradiation stage having a surface with a side length on the order of 1m, as is recited in amended claims 4, 5, and 6, Applicant respectfully submits AAPA, Yamazaki et al., and Feldman, either alone or in combination, do not render claims 4, 5, or 6 obvious. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests this rejection be withdrawn.

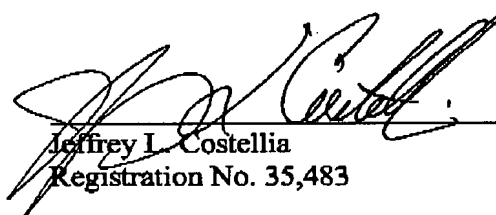
Dependent claims 7-15 and 31-36 depend from independent claims 1-6, and are therefore allowable at least for the aforementioned reasons, and further for the additional features recited.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. However, if any issue remains after considering this response, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned to expedite the prosecution and work out any such issue by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,



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